Singapore and Qatar have been granted access to new stations such as Bangalore, Hyderabad, Cochin and Gaya.

Renaming of Jollygrant Airport, Dehradun

2081. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal to rename Jollygrant airport, Dehradun as Swami Ram airport;

(b) if so, the details regarding the status of the proposal;

(c) by when the airport is likely to be renamed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The existing policy is generally to retain the name of domestic airports after the cities where these are located, since passengers and tourists, who may not be familiar with the local history, find it easier to identify the airport when it is named after the city, which it serves. Government has not made any exception in the case of Dehradun.

Flight between Hyderabad and Kuwait

2082. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received in the Ministry of Civil Aviation for operating a direct flight between Hyderabad and Kuwait;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has written to this Ministry regarding operation of Kuwait Airways' flight from Hyderabad. Hyderabad is not presently available as a point of call to Kuwait Airways. However Indian Airlines is connecting Hyderabad

with Kuwait through their twice weekly services on the sector Hyderabad-Ahmedabad-Kuwait.

Privatisation of non-operational airports in A.P.

2083. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that airports at Donakonda, Cuddapah and Warrangal in Andhra Pradesh are non-operational and State Government has no interest in these airports;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to privatise these airports for aviation activities; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Airports in Donakonda, Cuddapah and Warrangal in Andhra Pradesh are non-operational. In 1998, the Airports Authority of India had suggested to the State Government to take over these airports on mutually agreed terms and conditions. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has appointed M/s L&T Ramboll for preparation of feasibility report on the integrated development of small airports in Andhra Pradesh.

Purchase of less fuel consuming aircrafts

†2084. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the aircrafts committee constituted by the Indian Airlines has given any suggestion for procuring aircrafts consuming less fuel for the low cost flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian Airlines has prepared any cost details regarding the possibility of operating low tariff flights to promote air travel and to utilise additional capacity;

(d) if so, whether Indian Airlines will shortly introduce "no-frills and low tariff flights"; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.